

1) In contrast, a **multistep method** uses, in each step, values from two or more previous steps. These methods are motivated by the expectation that the additional information will increase accuracy and stability. But to get started, one needs values, say,  $y_0, y_1, y_2, y_3$  in a 4-step method, obtained by Runge-Kutta or another accurate method. Thus, multistep methods are not self-starting. Such methods are obtained as follows.

## 2) Adams - Bashforth Methods

We consider an initial value problem

$$(1) \quad y' = f(x, y), \quad y(x_0) = y_0$$

as before, with  $f$  such that the problem has a unique solution on some open interval containing  $x_0$ . We integrate  $y' = f(x, y)$  from  $x_n$  to  $x_{n+1} = x_n + h$ . This gives

$$\int_{x_n}^{x_{n+1}} y'(x) dx = y(x_{n+1}) - y(x_n) = \int_{x_n}^{x_{n+1}} f(x, y(x)) dx.$$

Now comes the main idea. We replace  $f(x, y(x))$  by an interpolation polynomial  $p(x)$  (see sec. 19.3), so that we can later integrate. This gives approximations  $y_{n+1}$  of  $y(x_{n+1})$  and  $y_n$  of  $y(x_n)$ ,

$$(2) \quad y_{n+1} = y_n + \int_{x_n}^{x_{n+1}} p(x) dx.$$

Different choices of  $p(x)$  will now produce different methods. We explain the principle by taking a cubic polynomial, namely, the polynomial  $p_3(x)$  that at (equidistant)

$$x_n, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}, x_{n-3}$$

has the respective values

$$(3) \quad \begin{aligned} f_n &= f(x_n, y_n) \\ f_{n-1} &= f(x_{n-1}, y_{n-1}) \\ f_{n-2} &= f(x_{n-2}, y_{n-2}) \\ f_{n-3} &= f(x_{n-3}, y_{n-3}). \end{aligned}$$

This will lead to a practically useful formula. We can obtain  $p_3(x)$  from Newton's backward difference formula (18), sec. 19.3:

$$p_3(x) = f_n + r \nabla f_n + \frac{1}{2} r(r+1) \nabla^2 f_n + \frac{1}{6} r(r+1)(r+2) \nabla^3 f_n$$

where

$$r = \frac{x - x_n}{h}.$$

3)

$$\frac{1}{2} r(r+1) \nabla^2 f_n : r = \frac{x-x_n}{h} \quad x_{n+1} = x_n + h \quad x_n = x_{n+1} - h$$

$$\frac{1}{2} (r^2 + r) \nabla^2 f_n = \frac{1}{2} \left( \left( \frac{x-x_n}{h} \right)^2 + \frac{x-x_n}{h} \right) \nabla^2 f_n = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{x^2 - 2xx_n + x_n^2}{h^2} + \frac{x-x_n}{h} \right) \nabla^2 f_n$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{x^2 - 2xx_n + x_n^2 + h(x-x_n)}{h^2} \right) \nabla^2 f_n = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{(x-x_n)^2 + h(x-x_n)}{h^2} \right) \nabla^2 f_n$$

$$= (x-x_n) \left[ (x-x_n) - h \right] \frac{\nabla^2 f_n}{2h^2} = (x-x_n) \left[ (x-(x_{n+1}-h)) - h \right] \frac{\nabla^2 f_n}{2h^2} = (x-x_n)(x-x_{n+1}) \frac{\nabla^2 f_n}{2h^2}$$

4)

$$r = \frac{x-x_n}{h}, \quad x = x_n, \quad x = x_{n+1} + h$$

$$x = x_n, \quad r = \frac{x_n - x_n}{h} = \frac{0}{h} = 0 : r = 0$$

$$x = x_{n+1} + h, \quad r = \frac{x_{n+1} + h - x_n}{h} = \frac{h}{h} = 1 : r = 1$$

5)

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 r(r+1) dr : \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 r^2 + r dr = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{r^3}{3} + \frac{r^2}{2} \right]_0^1 = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{2} \right] = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{5}{6} \right] = \frac{5}{12}$$

6)

$$\nabla f_n = f_n - f_{n-1}$$

$$\nabla^2 f_n = f_n - 2f_{n-1} + f_{n-2}$$

$$\nabla^3 f_n = f_n - 3f_{n-1} + 3f_{n-2} - f_{n-3}$$

7)

(5)

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \frac{h}{24} (55f_n - 59f_{n-1} + 37f_{n-2} - 9f_{n-3})$$

## 8) Adams - Moulton Methods

Adams - Moulton methods are obtained if for  $p(x)$  in (2) we choose a polynomial that interpolates  $f(x, y(x))$  at  $x_{n+1}, x_n, x_{n-1}, \dots$  (as opposed to  $x_n, x_{n-1}, \dots$  used before; this is the main point).

9)

(7a)

$$y_{n+1}^* = y_n + \frac{h}{24} (55f_n - 59f_{n-1} + 37f_{n-2} - 9f_{n-3})$$

10)

(7b)

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \frac{h}{24} (9f_{n+1}^* + 19f_n - 5f_{n-1} + f_{n-2})$$